

## REMARKS

### **I. Formalities**

Claims 1, 2, 4-15, 17-27, and 29 remain in the subject patent application. Claims 3, 16, and 28 are canceled and claims 1, 11, 15, 22, and 26 are amended herein. Claims 1, 15, and 26 were amended by incorporating into them the limitations that originally appeared in claims 3, 16, and 28, respectively. Claims 11 and 22 were rewritten in independent form by incorporating into them the limitations that originally appeared in the claims from which they depended. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is added herein.

### **II. Remarks Directed to the Allowable Subject Matter**

Claims 3, 11, 16, 22, and 28 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants thank Examiner Marsh for this indication of allowable subject matter. As noted above, claims 11 and 22 have been rewritten in independent form. Claims 3, 16, and 28 have been canceled and their limitations have been incorporated into, respectively, claims 1, 15, and 26. All of the pending claims are therefore in condition for allowance.

## CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. In light of the amendments and remarks set forth above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all of the pending claims.

The foregoing amendments added two independent claims to the pending application that have not previously been paid for. A check in the amount of \$400 to cover the fee for the additional claims is submitted herewith. No other fees are believed to be due in connection with this paper; however, the Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any further fees necessitated by this Response, or credit any overpayment, to Account No. 02-4467.

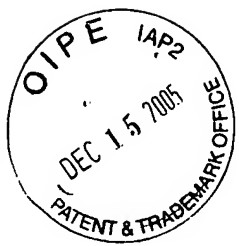
If there are matters that can be discussed by telephone to further the prosecution of this application, Applicants invite Examiner Marsh to call the undersigned attorney at the Examiner's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this document (and any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service, mailing label No. **EV497393502US on December 15, 2005** and addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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